

Specifically, the Examiner asserted that the technical feature shared among the five groups is an oligonucleotide comprising at least two hydrophobic anchoring moieties capable of being attached to a lipid membrane, but that the Bijsterbosch et al (2002) publication cited in the International Search Report teaches an oligonucleotide that contains two cholesterol moieties.

However, all of the remaining claims 18-27 of Groups 2-5 depend from claim 1. Thus, as long as all of these claims depend from claim 1, they should be examined in this application together with claims 1-17. The Examiner's assertions regarding Bijsterbosch et al are traversed and can be addressed in substantive prosecution, if necessary.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the restriction requirement and examination of all of claims 1-27 in this application are requested. Finally, in the event that claims 18-27 are withdrawn as relating to non-elected inventions, rejoinder of these claims once claim 1 is allowed is requested.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action. Examination on the merits is respectfully requested. Please charge any fee required with this response to Deposit Account No. 503915.

Respectfully submitted,

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